

ROTISSERIE WITH LIGHTING FIXTURE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention:

5 The present invention relates to a rotisserie and, more specifically, to such a rotisserie, which is equipped with a lighting fixture.

2. Description of the Related Art:

Following the development of the present era, people care more about the taste and style of personal recreational life. Therefore, the activity of barbecue that fits all members of every family and their relatives and friends has become more and
10 more popularly accepted. Various barbecue grills and the like have been commercialized. However, these apparatus are commonly simple in shape, neither humanized nor practical in use. When selecting a grill from two similar products having a reasonable price, humanization and practical use are the key points to consider. In order to survive in the competitive market, barbecue apparatus
15 manufacturers must try hard to improve their products in humanization and practical use. Without humanization and practical use, one's barbecue products will be defeated in the free market.

FIG. 1 shows a prior art rotisserie available in the market. According to this design, the rotisserie 10 comprises a housing 11 defining a cooking chamber 111
20 for holding cooking implements such as burners, cooking grid, coals (not shown). The housing 11 comprises a first rack 12 and a second rack 13 at two opposite sides of the cooking chamber 111. The first rack 12 comprises a flat mounting frame 121 and a top notch 124. The mounting frame 121 has a plurality of through holes 122 for the mounting of screws 123 to fix the first rack 12 to the housing 11. The second
25 rack 13 is a zigzag plate member having a vertically extended top bearing wall 133, a vertically extended bottom mounting wall 132, and a middle connecting wall 131 horizontally connected between the vertically extended top bearing wall 133 and the vertically extended bottom mounting wall 132. The bottom mounting wall 132 has a plurality of through holes 134 for the mounting of screws 135 to fix the second rack

13 to the housing 11 opposite to the first rack 12. The top bearing wall 133 has a top notch 136 disposed above the housing 11 corresponding to the top notch 124 of the first rack 12.

5 The rotisserie further comprises a motor case 14 fastened to the top bearing wall 133 of the second rack 13 to hold a reversible motor (not shown) on the inside. The motor case 14 comprises two coupling elements 141 bilaterally located on the back wall thereof and respectively coupled to the top bearing wall 133 of the second rack 13 and stopped at the connection area between the top bearing wall 133 and the middle connecting wall 131 to secure the motor case 14 to the second rack 10 13, and an axle hole 142 in the back wall between the coupling elements 141 corresponding to the top notch 136 of the second rack 13. The rotisserie also comprises a rod member 15 supported in the top notch 124 of the first rack 12 and the top notch 136 of the second notch 13 and inserted through the axle hole 142 and axially coupled to the output shaft of the motor inside the motor case 14. The rod 15 member comprises two movable forks 151 adapted to hold the food to be roasted. Further, a power cord 143 extends to the outside of the motor case 14 for connection to external power source.

The aforesaid rotisserie is functional, however it still has drawbacks. When roasting meat in the housing 11 of the rotisserie 10 in the daylight or under 20 sufficient illumination, the user can check the roasting status of the meat with the eyes, and know accurately when the meat is well done. However, when roasting meat in the dark, the user may not be able to see the roasting status of the meat well, and have to cut a small piece of the meat under roasting and then eat the cut piece so as to inspect the roasting status of the meat. It is not hygienic to examine the 25 roasting status of the meat in this way because the user may eat not well-cooked food. It is harmful to the user when the user ate food that is not well cooked. Therefore, this conventional rotisserie is not perfect in design, not humanized, and not practical in use. Improvements on this design are necessary.

Therefore, it is desirable to provide a humanized and practical rotisserie 30 that enables the user to visually check the roasting status of the food.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been accomplished under the circumstances in view. It is one object of the present invention to provide a rotisserie, which is equipped with a lighting fixture for providing illumination when cooking in the dark. It is another object of the present invention to provide a rotisserie, which has a
5 power jack for power output.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the rotisserie comprising a housing defining a cooking chamber, a rod member adapted to hold food in the cooking chamber for roasting, and a rotary motor drive provided at one side of the housing and adapted to rotate the rod member in the cooking chamber, wherein the
10 rotary motor drive comprises: a motor case holding a motor, the motor case having an axle hole into which the rod member is inserted and coupled to the motor; coupling means adapted to secure the motor case to one side of the housing; and a lighting fixture mounted on the motor case and adapted to illuminate the cooking chamber. According to another aspect of the present invention, a power jack is
15 provided at the motor case and electrically connected to the power cord of the motor case for power output.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of a rotisserie according to the prior art.

FIG. 2 is an elevational view of a rotisserie according to a first
20 embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is an elevational view of a rotisserie according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is an elevational view of a rotisserie according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIG. 2, a rotisserie is shown comprising a housing 21 defining a cooking chamber 211 for holding cooking implements such as burners, cooking grid, coals (not shown). The housing 21 comprises a first rack 22 and a

second rack **23** at two opposite sides of the cooking chamber **211**. The first rack **22** comprises a flat mounting frame **221** and a top notch **224**. The mounting frame **221** has a plurality of through holes **222** for the mounting of screws **223** to fix the first rack **22** to the housing **21**.

5 The second rack **23** is a zigzag plate member having a vertically extended top bearing wall **233**, a vertically extended bottom mounting wall **232**, and a middle connecting wall **231** horizontally connected between the vertically extended top bearing wall **233** and the vertically extended bottom mounting wall **232**. The bottom mounting wall **232** has a plurality of through holes **234** for the mounting of screws
10 **235** to fix the second rack **23** to the housing **21** opposite to the first rack **22**. The top bearing wall **233** has a top notch **236** disposed above the housing **21** corresponding to the top notch **224** of the first rack **22**.

A motor case **24** is fastened to the top bearing wall **233** of the second rack **23** to hold a reversible motor (not shown) on the inside. The motor case **24**
15 comprises two coupling elements **241** bilaterally located on the back wall thereof and respectively coupled to the top bearing wall **233** of the second rack **23** and stopped at the connection area between the top bearing wall **233** and the middle connecting wall **231** to secure the motor case **24** to the second rack **23**, and an axle hole **242** in the back wall between the coupling elements **241** corresponding to the
20 output shaft **245** (not shown) of the reversible motor inside the motor case **24** and the top notch **236** of the second rack **23**.

A lighting fixture **25** is provided at the motor case **24**. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the lighting fixture **25** comprises a lampshade **251** formed integral with the top wall of the motor case **24**. At least one switch **26** is installed in the motor case **24**
25 for controlling the operation of the lighting fixture **25** and/or the motor inside the motor case **24**. When roasting meat or the like in the cooking chamber **211** in the dark, the user can switch on the switch **26** to turn on the lighting fixture **25**. Under sufficient illumination, the user can see the cooking status of the roasting meat. Further, a power cord **243** extends out of the motor case **24** for connection to
30 external power source to obtain the necessary working voltage to the motor inside the motor case **24** and the lighting fixture **25**.

The rotisserie further comprises a rod member 30 supported in the top notch 224 of the first rack 22 and the top notch 236 of the second notch 23 and inserted into the axle hole 242 and axially coupled to the output shaft of the motor inside the motor case 24. Two forks 31 are horizontally mounted on the rod member 30 to face each other for holding the food 40 to be roasted. The forks 31 can be moved axially along the rod member 30 relative to each other subject to the size of the food 40 to be roasted. However, the forks 31 are prohibited from rotary motion relative to the rod member 30 (prohibiting the forks 31 from rotary motion relative to the rod member 30 can easily be achieved by conventional techniques, for example, the use of holding down screws).

As indicated above, when roasting food 40 in the housing 21 in the dark, the lighting fixture 25 can be turned on to illuminate the cooking area so that the user can conveniently visually check the cooking status of the food 40.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, except the aforesaid coupling elements 241, axle hole 242, power cord 243 and output shaft 245 on the motor case 24, the aforesaid lighting fixture 25 may be variously embodied. FIG. 3 shows an alternate form of the lighting fixture 25. According to this embodiment, the lighting fixture 25 comprises a bellows support tube 252 (formed of a flexible insulating tube and a metal coil around the insulating tube) upwardly extended from the top side of the motor case 24, and a lampshade 253 at the end of the bellows support tube 252. Further, the switch 26 is installed in the lampshade 253.

FIG. 4 shows another alternate form of the present invention. According to this embodiment, the lampshade 253 of the lighting fixture 25 is pivoted to the top pivot end 255 of a folding support 256, which is pivoted to the top side of the motor case 24. The folding support 256 has joints 257 through which the user can bend the folding support 256 to adjust the elevation and angle of the lighting fixture 25. Further, the motor case 24 has a recessed receiving portion 258 in the top side for the resting of the lighting fixture 25 when the folding support 256 collapsed.

Referring to FIGS. 2~4 again, a power jack 27 is provided at one side of the motor case 24 for power output. The user can connect a portable electric apparatus to the power jack 27 to obtain the necessary electricity.

A prototype of rotisserie with lighting fixture has been constructed with the features of FIGS. 2~4. The rotisserie with lighting fixture functions smoothly to provide all of the features discussed earlier.

5 Although particular embodiments of the invention have been described in detail for purposes of illustration, various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.